implemented in a time bound manner, the implementation process is being closely monitored by the Government.

Improvement of NH-44 by Border Road Organisation

1995. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Border Road Organisation has drawn a time bound action plan for improvement and maintenance of National Highway No. 44 which is the only highway link of Tripura with rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate funds have been earmarked for upgradation and maintenance, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any plan to link Tripura with other States through another highway link to be constructed by the Border Road Organisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when this link is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NH-44 is to be improved to NH double lane width. Double laning work of this highway falling in Tripura State (195 kms.) is planned for commencement during 2001-2002 and is proposed to be completed by 2010. The stretch from Agartala to Sabroom (135 Kms.) which is an extension of NH-44, is under development to NH intermediate lane width since 1997-98 and is proposed to be completed by March, 2003, excluding major bridges.

(c) Yes, Sir. For upgradation and maintenance of NH-44 (including its extension) the following funds have been provided:—

1995-1996	—	Rs. 1670.77 Lacs
1996-1997	—	Rs. 1582.62 Lacs
1997-1998	—	Rs. 1146.68 Lacs
1998-1999	—	Rs. 2688.00 Lacs

1999-2000	—	**Rs. 4343.71 Lacs**
2000-2001	—	Rs. 3800.13 Lacs
2001-2002	—	Rs. 3352.17 Lacs (Proposed)

(d) and (e) Tripura is served by two existing National Highways namely NH-44 and NH-44A. At present there is no proposal to link Tripura with other States through a new National Highway.

Establishment of National Defence University

1996. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recommendation has been made by the Group of Ministers to establish a National Defence University as a measure to reform the national security apparatus in the context of the present day scenario of rapid changes in technology, weaponry and operational doctrines; and

(b) if so, by when such University is going to be set up as exists in US, China and Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to enable the Government to have access to regular information and studies in the area of strategic research and to bring a dynamic relationship between academic institutions, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies to meet the requirement of the Government, the setting up of a National Defence University (NDU) has been considered desirable.

(b) No date has been fixed.